

(one-sided)

Friday
December 12, 1958
10:25 a.m.



TELEPHONE CALL TO MR MERCHANT

The Sec. called him about the Sec's departure statement today. The Sec. said he had a feeling that either in his prepared statement or possibly in answer to a question he should be a little bit more vigorous. Sec. said he thought of saying at some point that the real tragedy of this whole affair was whereas the Soviet leaders constantly profess their desire for coexistence they are constantly violating unilaterally the established agreements and that it was almost impossible to have a condition of peaceful coexistence if they tear up agreements they have with other parties. Sec. said he thought the statement innocuous that had been sent out. He thought he should put a little more into it. He read from the statement and said it was a "milk toast" kind of statement. They discussed the statement.

Sec. read from the Tass statement that had been sent out, wherein there was talk about liquidating the regime in Berlin. Who gives them this authority? How are you going to coexist with people who act in this way?

Sec. asked if Merchant would like to go to the White House with him to see the Pres. Apparently Mr. Merchant said he would not go because the Sec. said he would see him at 3:30 at the plane.

TELEPHONE CALL TO MR MERCHANT

10:50 a.m.

Sec. said something about mentioning last year's NATO meeting. The Sec. read from a draft excerpt he had just ~~dictated~~ done.

11:45 a.m.

TELEPHONE CALL TO MR MERCHANT

The Sec. read the revise (as he had done it) of the departure statement.
(over)

They had a discussion of defensive and deterrent power. The Sec. thought there might be some advantage in putting in the word "defensive". Would Merchant rather say "defensive and deterrent power"? The last sentence is put in terms of "if". We don't say anywhere that we can be confident. It is an "if" sentence. They discussed different ways of putting it.

They mentioned the Sec's seeing De Gaulle in Paris and of how it should be referred to in the statement.

Sec. said he had told the French we couldn't prevent people from coming here and we would do what we could to play down their activities in this country. Going to the reception was not compatible with this. Was it our reception or the Tunisian? They could discuss it on the plane.